

HOUSE BILL 2345
By McMillan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated Title
11, Chapter 4, relative to the Tennessee
Forestry Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 11-4-103, is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered definitions:

() "Certified State Forest" means any State Forest that meets the standards for forest sustainability pursuant to requirements of the Forest Stewardship Council, Sustainable Forestry Initiative or other nationally recognized programs that promote forest sustainability.

() "Forestry best management practices" means those land and water resource conservation measures that prevent, limit, or eliminate water pollution for forest resource management purposes, as provided in rules promulgated in accordance with § 11-4-301(d)(18);

() "Logger" means any person who conducts timber harvesting operations for commercial purposes;

() "Operator" as used in the context of silvicultural activities, means any person who conducts or exercises control over any silvicultural activities; provided, however, that the term "operator" does not include an owner if the silvicultural activities are being conducted by an independent contractor;

() "Owner" as used in the context of silvicultural activities, means any person or persons that own or lease land on which silvicultural activities occur or own timber on land on which silvicultural activities occur;

() "Silvicultural activities" means those forest management activities associated with the harvesting of timber and including, without limitation, the construction of roads and trails;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 11, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered new subsection:

(1) The division shall provide or assist in providing information and education programs for the following purposes:

(a) To develop public awareness of the importance of the forests of Tennessee;

(b) To promote forest stewardship including the uses of forestry best management practices and sound forest utilization practices by private woodland owners, loggers, and the forest industry; and

(c) To coordinate with other agencies and organizations to provide programs that assure effective, long-term forest conservation and sound silvicultural activities.

(2) The division shall incorporate into its educational and informational program examples of sustainable forests management practices, best management practices, and a range of economic, ecological, and social opportunities beneficial to the owners of forest land by:

(a) Sponsoring field days that enable individual woodland owners to recognize and resolve problems that they encounter in dealing with their woodland resources;

(b) Developing demonstration programs involving forests and management of forest ecosystems including urban forests;

(c) Developing and implementing programs that give special attention to educational needs of small, private, nonindustrial forest landowners; and

(d) Supporting the Tennessee Cooperative Extension Service in promoting and conducting technology transfer education programs specifically for woodland owners.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.